

Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 EUR-12 EA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 L-03
FRB-03 OMB-01 ITC-01 SP-02 ICA-11 AGRE-00 AID-05
CIAE-00 COME-00 INR-10 LAB-04 NSAE-00 OIC-02
SIL-01 STR-07 TRSE-00 CEA-01 SS-15 /120 W
-----000001 100611Z /13

R 090626Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3494
INFO AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
USMISSION GENEVA

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USMTN

STATE PASS AGRICULTURE FOR NOVOTNY AND STARKEY

EO 11652: NA
TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, UNCTAD, AS
SUBJECT: AUSTRALIAN POSITION IWA STOCKHOLDING PROVISIONS

1. PRIMARY INDUSTRY MINISTER SINCLAIR RECENTLY ADDRESSED THE YOUNG
NATIONAL PARTY OF AUSTRALIA VICTORIA BRANCH AT SHEPPARTON, AND ALTHOU
GH

PARTLY DESIGNED TO PROVIDE POLITICAL SUPPORT TO FEDERAL MEMBER OF
MURRAY ELECTORATE, SINCLAIR BRIEFLY COVERED IMPORTANT AGRICULTURAL
COMMODITY ASPECTS. REFERENCE TO GRAIN INDUSTRY SITUATION MAY BE
OF SOME SIGNIFICANCE IN RESPECT OF CURRENT IWA NEGOTIATIONS.

SINCLAIR COMMENCED BY SAYING IAC
IAC HAS PRESENTED ITS DRAFT REPORT ON WHEAT STABILIZATION AND
PRODUCERS HAVE EXPRESSED SOME CONCERN AT ITS RECOMMENDATIONS.
HE WENT ON TO SAY THAT THE

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FINAL REPORT IS YET TO BE RECEIVED, AND IT WILL OF COURSE BE
CONSIDERED BY THE GOVERNMENT, TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE POINTS OF
VIEW EXPRESSED BY THE AUSTRALIAN WHEATGROWERS FEDERATION BEFORE
REACHING CONCLUSIONS ON THE NEW WHEAT STABILIZATION PROGRAM TO
OPERATE FROM JULY 1, 1979.

2. MINISTER SINCLAIR THEN CONTINUED; QUOTE IT IS MY HOPE

THAT IF AN INTERNATIONAL WHEAT AGREEMENT IS NEGOTIATED THAT SOME OF THE MORE ONEROUS CONSEQUENCES OF THE PRESENT PROPOSED STOCKHOLDING OBLIGATIONS UNDER THAT AGREEMENT CAN BE VARIED. THE SCHEME, AS NOW ENVISAGED, WOULD BE OF SIGNIFICANT HELP TO THE UNITED STATES BUT, IN MY VIEW, OF LITTLE IMMEDIATE ASSISTANCE TO AUSTRALIAN WHEAT GROWERS, PARTICULARLY WHEN THEIR STOCKS ARE LOW AS A RESULT OF SEVERAL BAD SEASONS UNQUOTE.

3. COMMENT: IT IS DIFFICULT TO ASSESS WHAT IMPORTANCE CAN BE PLACED ON THESE STATEMENTS, BUT WHEN CONSIDERING THEY WERE VOICED AT MINISTERIAL LEVEL IN PUBLIC, IT MAY INDICATE GOA IS BECOMING A SOMEWHAT RELUCTANT PARTICIPANT IN THE IWA NEGOTIATIONS. GOA OFFICIALS HAVE REFUSED TO EXPRESS OPINIONS ON THE MINISTER'S VIEWS, BUT AGREED THAT THE STATEMENT WAS SIGNIFICANT IN RELATION TO GOA POSITION ON STOCKHOLDING OBLIGATIONS UNDER NEW IWA.
SQUIRE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TRADE LIBERALIZATION, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION, AGRICULTURAL EXPORTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 09 jun 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978CANBER04484
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780243-0028
Format: TEL
From: CANBERRA USMTN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780678/aaaacowa.tel
Line Count: 80
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: b6e9c58c-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EB
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 28 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2422606
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: AUSTRALIAN POSITION IWA STOCKHOLDING PROVISIONS
TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, AS, UNCTAD
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/b6e9c58c-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014